United Nations E/2016/NGO/32

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by International Ecological Safety Cooperative Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

16-08476 (E) 270516

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Statement

Youth Empowerment: An Important Task towards Sustainable Development

Review

The United Nations Youth Empowerment and Urban Ecological Safety Action Plan was jointly initiated by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the International Ecological Safety Collaborative Organization (IESCO) at the 25th session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat. The plan aims at guiding every country to release an Urban Youth Survey Report; carrying out training on ecological skills and technical training for youth; conducting an Urban Ecological Safety Index Ranking within the framework of UN-Habitat; and setting up "UN-Habitat Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Awards".

Concept

UN-Habitat Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Awards aim to inspire youth leaders to start up business by adopting innovative technology so as to play an unique role in solving social and environmental problems. By attracting, supporting and inspiring young innovators and entrepreneurs, the awards will further encourage the programs that can create great social, economic and environmental benefits and make them the catalyst to sustainable development; and inspire people to contribute to youth employment, the formulation of poverty alleviation plans, guarantee of ecological safety and sustainable development in the future.

Action

The "Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship" Strategy outlined by the government of the People's Republic of China provides a sound environment for youth innovation and entrepreneurship, which is highly valued by governments of all countries. China will provide policy support in land, capital and industrial development. The Ecological Civilization Committee of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, UN-Habitat and IESCO initiated the United Nations Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Industrial Park under the framework of the United Nations Youth Empowerment and Urban Ecological Safety Action Plan, which includes:

1. Building open, convenient and low-cost infrastructure facilities for youth innovation and entrepreneurship;

2. Lowering the threshold for youth innovation and entrepreneurship and encouraging scientific and technical personnel and youth to start-up businesses in the Park;

3. Supporting public service in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Industrial Park;

4. Providing financial support for the development of the Industrial Park;

5. Improving the investment and financing mechanisms;

6. Carrying out imaginative activities of innovation and entrepreneurship;

7. Creating a multicultural atmosphere for youth innovation and entrepreneurship; and

8. Establishing a global database and network platform for youth innovation and entrepreneurship.